

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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R 141521Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMCONSUL CURACAO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, SGEN, XL
SUBJECT: THE CARIBBEAN TO BE THEME OF 1979 SUPER BOWL

REF STATE 118890

1. WE HAVE DEFERRED REPLYING TO REFTEL PENDING MORE DEFINITE
OUTCOME OF MAY 16 ELECTION HERE. ASSUMING THAT VOCTORY OF PRD
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GUZMAN IS CONFIRMED, WE HAVE FIRMER
BASIS FOR SETTING FORTH OUR VIEW ON POSSIBLE INVITATION TO
DOMINICAN PRESIDENT TO ATTEND SUPER BOWL FOOTBALL EVENT NEXT
JANUARY IN MIAMI.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH INVITATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR
FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. THE NEW PRESIDENT, TO BE INAUGURATED AUGUST 16, WILL BE
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EXTREMELY BUSY DURING HIS FIRST SEVERAL MONTHS IN OFFICE. IT
WOULD APPEAR FRIVOLOUS FOR HIM TO TAKE OFF ON WHAT WOULD BE
CONSIDERED ESSENTIALLY A PUBLIC RELATIONS JUNKET WHILE HE HAD
SO MUCH TO DO IN SANTO DOMINGO.

B. IF THE DOMINICAN PRESIDENT WERE INVITED BY AN AMERICAN
ORGANIZATION TO TAKE SUCH A TRIP, HE WOULD PROBABLY EXPECT TO

RECEIVE A COLLATERAL INVITATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO PAY A CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER. IT WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE FOR THE DOMINICAN PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE THE PRIMARY INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT CARTER.

C. DOMINICANS HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OR INTEREST IN FOOTBALL. AGREEMENT OF THE DOMINICAN PRESIDENT TO ATTEND A GALA FOOTBALL EVENT IN THE US WOULD GENERALLY BE SEEN BY DOMINICANS AS CATERING TO US TOURISM AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. THEY WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT BENEFIT WOULD BE DERIVED BY THE DR.

3. ALTERNATIVELY, WE SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INVITE SECRETARIES OF SPORTS AND/OR TOURISM OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO THE SUPER BOWL EVENT WITH A CARIBBEAN THEME.

4. THERE ARE NO COLORFUL MARCHING BANDS IN THE DR OF A LEVEL SUITABLE TO PERFORM AT A SUPER BOWL EVENT.

5. BEST KNOWN DOMINICAN ATHLETES ARE BASEBALL PLAYERS. THOSE NOW PERFORMING IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES ARE CESAR CEDENO, CENTER FIELDER FOR THE HOUSTON ASTROS; RICHARDO CARTY, FIRST BASEMAN FOR THE TORONTO BLUE JAYS; AND MANNY MOTA, PINCH HITTER FOR THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS. STILL REMEMBERED ARE JAUN MARICHALL, PITCHER FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS AND FELIPE ROJAS ALOU, WHO PLAYED FOR A NUMBER OF BIG LEAGUE TEAMS.

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6. IN THE ENTERTAINMENT FIELD, THE JOHNNY VENTURA AND WILFREDO VARGAS BANDS ARE WELL KNOWN IN THE US AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. THEY COULD PROVIDE AN ASSORTMENT OF MERENGUE AND OTHER LATIN MUSIC DURING THE EVENT. THE DOMINICAN AIR LINE (CDA) MIGHT BE PREVAILED ON TO FURNISH FREE AIR TRANSPORTATION TO THE GROUP IF THE GODR WERE PERSUADED THAT THE GROUP'S ATTENDANCE AT THE SUPER BOWL EVENT WAS OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO THE DR. YOST

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